

CAPSULE SUMMARY - RAFF BARN 'A' (CT-1041)

Cherry Hill or Raff Barn 'A' is one of three existing barns associated with this early 19th century house. The barn is actually composed of two separate structures which total twelve rooms. Oriented on a east-west axis the original west section measured 24 x 24 and had a transverse axis plan. Subsequent additions and extensions to the south and east resulted in a structure measuring 68 x 34 and included a stripping room and a built-in corncrib. The changes to this barn provide a glimpse into the changing family use of the land and agricultural practices in late 19th through 20th century Calvert County.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Raff Barn A

2. Location

street & number Chaney Rd.

☐ not for publication

city, town Chaney

☐ vicinity of

congressional district

state MD

county Calvert

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: unused

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Virginia Chaney Raff

street & number Cherry Hill, Chaney Rd.

telephone no.: 301-257-6429

city, town Chaney

state and zip code MD

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

Calvert County Courthouse

liber ABE 295

street & number

Main Street (MD 765)

folio

763

city, town

Prince Frederick

state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

DEPT. OF PLANNING & ZONING

COURT HOUSE

PRINCE FREDERICK, MD. 20674

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. CT-1041

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

In order to reach CT-1041, take Hwy. 2 to Brick House Road, turn left on Chaney Road, go to end. Several barns are associated with the old house (Cherry Hill). The two nearest the house have been recorded during this survey. The first barn is located downhill and to the east of the main house. It is on a flat site surrounded by fields to the east and south. The farm road runs to the north of the barn. The other barn is located much nearer the main house, slightly downhill and to the west. An old barn was located even closer to the main house to the east of CT-1048 but has since been destroyed. The barn combines circular sawn and hewn materials, cut and wire nails. It is formed of two twenty-four by twenty-four foot barns built up against each other, comprising one forty-eight by twenty-four foot barn. There is a clear separation between the two barns. The original barn was the one located in the western half (section A). There is one shed located to the south and another, large shed/stripping room combination to the east.

As stated, the barn is composed of two sections. Section A is the original barn, and section B was built at some later date. Section A is comprised of three eight-foot wide bays. Section B is also comprised of three eight-foot bays. The two barns contain a total of twelve rooms. The original plan of section A (the early barn) had a transverse axis plan, with doors centered along each facade. The door on the east side is now unusable, as it is blocked off by the stripping room siding. The west and south side doors have been removed, but pintel holes remain. Section B was designed with a transverse axis plan, and doors along the north and west sides. The northern door is an eight-foot wide double door. Access to the southern shed is through a double door located at the intersection of section A with section B. Access to the eastern stripping room/shed is through a four foot door centered on the twenty foot width of the shed.

8. Significance

Survey No. CT-1041

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This barn is significant for the study of vernacular architecture in Southern Maryland. It is a late nineteenth or early twentieth-century barn that employs transitional materials including fully mature machine cut and wire nails. It is also significant and of interest because of the complexity of its expansion. In addition, it evidence of multi-use is striking. Not only was tobacco cured here, but corn was stored in the built-in corncrib, and tobacco was stripped in the adjacent stripping room.

This barn also yields information regarding agricultural history in Southern Maryland. In February 1990, a tobacco barn survey was initiated in order to study the tobacco barns of Calvert County. Until fairly recently, tobacco was the most important farm crop of the county. More acreage was devoted to its cultivation than for both of the next most extensive farm products (corn and wheat). The barns and stripping houses related to this "Tobacco Culture" are widely recognized as the most common element on the rural landscape. These structures are also the most threatened, as the market for tobacco declines. They seem to have, at present, only limited capabilities for re-use. Many barns and stripping houses now stand empty. The purpose of this survey has been to gather information and document a wide sample of these structures before they disappear from the landscape.

Historic Period/themes(s): ca. 1880-1890, Agriculture, tobacco, barn
Geographic Organization: Western Shore Chesapeake Bay Calvert County MD
Chronological/Developmental Period: 1880-Present
Resource Type(s): Tobacco Barn, Stripping Room, Corn Crib

Raff Barn CT-1041

7. Description (Cont.)

The support system is both concrete block and large unmortared field stones. The north side has continuous poured concrete under the sill, thereby closing off the bad weather from the north. In both sections, the posts are circular sawn and hewn, held via mortise and tenon joints with trunnels, and both cut and wire nails. The timbers are larger (therefore probably earlier) in section A. Down braces are circular sawn with mortise and tenon joints. Cross sills are hand hewn and circular sawn. Horizontal nailing rails are circular sawn and hewn. It is possible that the hewn timbers are the result of extensive reuse of timbers in these barns, many unused joints are visible. There is no clear separation between materials or technique in the two sections of the barn. The explanation for the combination of hewn and circular sawn material and cut and wire nails lies either in the re-use of materials of a transitional date for the structure. Vertical wall siding and some top-hinged ventilation doors cover the barn. A wooden shingle roof originally covered the entire barn, but it has been replaced by metal roofing on the south side of the barn and both sheds. The rafters rest on a flat false plate. The top plate is circular sawn. Three collars and windbraces on each corner help to support the roof. Tier poles are both sawn and peeled logs, separated by forty-forty-two inches vertical distance. Peeled logs every four feet run down the central axis. These peeled logs had pegs inserted into notches in order to hold the tiers. A dismantled tobacco prize, baskets, and sticks attest to the use of the barn for tobacco.

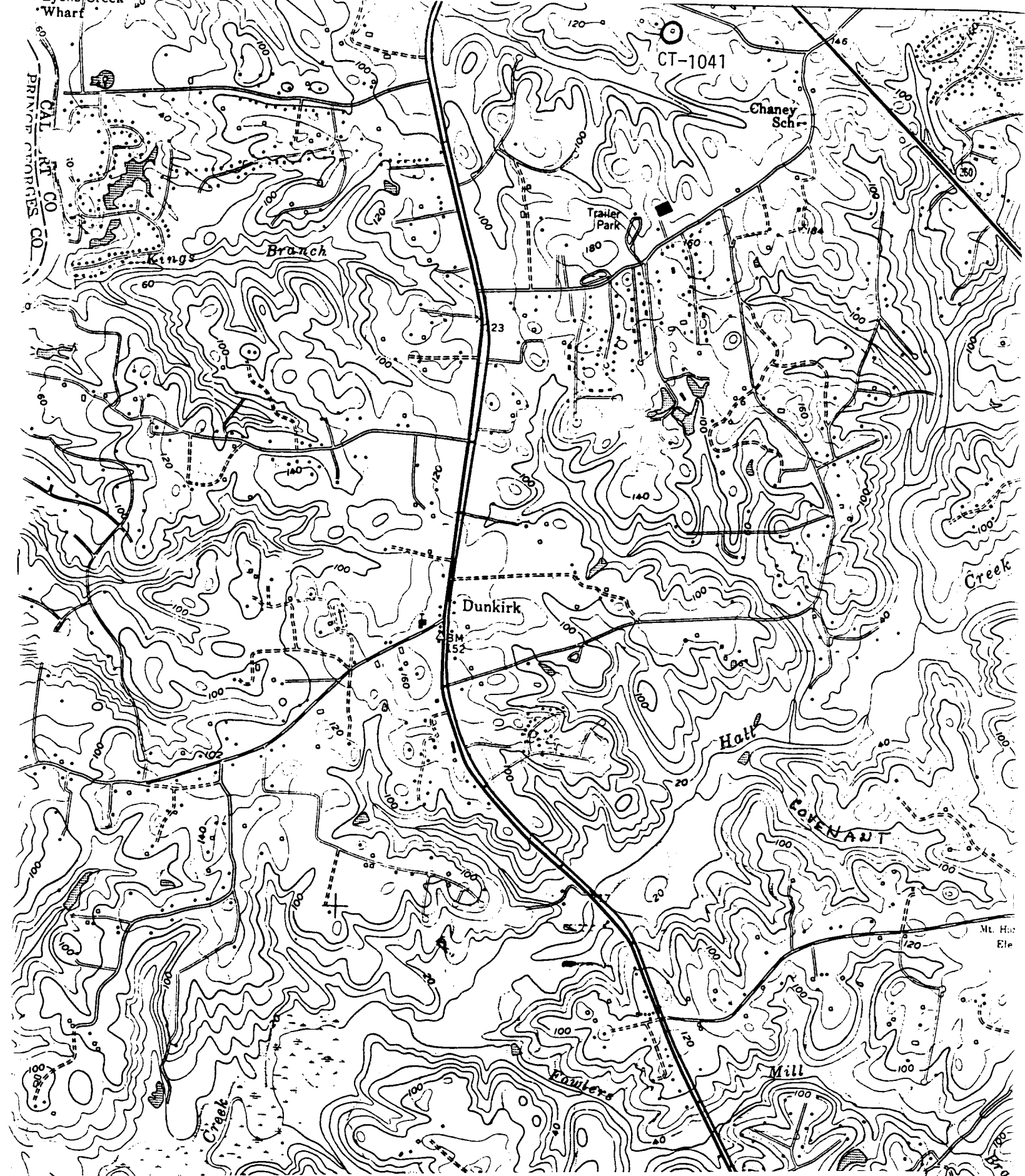
The roof of the ten-foot wide southern shed blends well with the structure. The sill in the shed at the point where section A joins with section B implies that this shed was extant on the original barn prior to the addition of section B, and then was simply expanded. Concrete block foundations support the shed. The tops of the rafters of the barn are not visible to determine if the shed was original or not. All the timber used in the southern shed is circular sawn, and the nails are wire. The roof was originally shingled and is now metal. There is an enclosed corncrib structure in the south shed that has a sided and enclosed floored room.

There is a twenty foot wide shed to the east of the barn. It appears to be an addition. The roof was originally shingled, and is now metal. Concrete piers serve for foundations. Light circular sawn lumber and wire nails predominate. The roof juxtaposes awkwardly with the rest of the structure, and there was a door on the eastern section of the barn which has been closed off and made unusable by the addition of this shed. The northern portion of the shed has been converted into an enclosed stripping area.

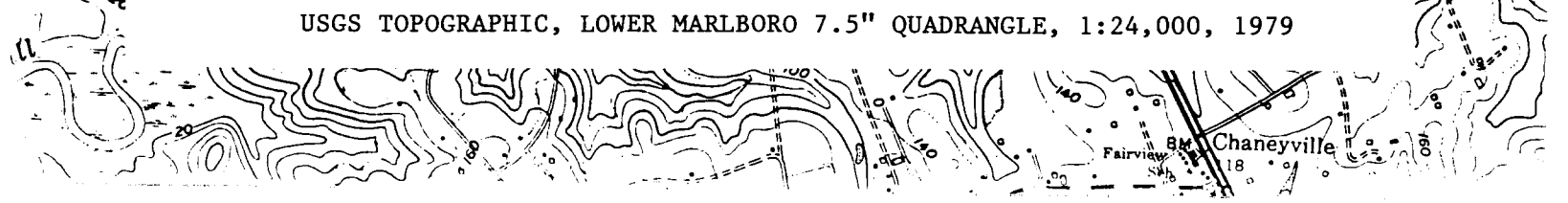
Raff Barn CT-1041 (cont.)

8. Significance (cont.)

Mrs. Raff does not know the date of construction of this barn, but only that it is among the more recent on the property. The original barn measured twenty-four by twenty-four feet and had a transverse axis plan. A ten foot wide shed may have existed to the south prior to the building of the addition. This south shed may have been original to section A, although the evidence of a door on the southern wall makes this appear unlikely. An addition of equal size was added to the west of the barn. The evidence that this section was an addition includes the existence of empty doorpost mortises on the current cross-sill, and the evidence for siding along the cross-sill. It is possible the entire south shed was built at this time, although it seems more likely that it was already standing, and was simply expanded also. Later, a twenty foot wide shed with a large stripping room was added to the east. At this time, the southeast corner of the barn sill was cut out and removed in order to allow access to the barn from this shed. The sequencing of the stripping room addition after the barn addition is based on the fact that the construction techniques and materials used in this shed are more recent than those of the south shed. Therefore, from a twenty-four by twenty-four foot barn the barn grew into a building whose overall measurements were sixty-eight by thirty-four feet.



USGS TOPOGRAPHIC, LOWER MARLBORO 7.5" QUADRANGLE, 1:24,000, 1979





CT = 1041 Raff Barn 'A'

Chaney

Tara L. Williamson

Southeast

March 1990